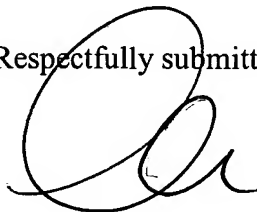


of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,558 issued on November 6, 2001, ~~This application which~~ is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,186,677 issued on February 13, 2001, ~~pending U.S. patent application No. 09/066,988 filed on April 23, 1998~~ which is based on U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/045,018 filed on April 28, 1997 and which is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,249 issued on November 16, 1999, ~~pending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/916,125 filed on August 21, 1997,~~ which is based on U.S. Provisional Patent Application Applications Nos. 60/024,624 and 60/036,250 filed on August 27, 1996 and January 24, 1997, respectively.

### REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-248-4042.

Respectfully submitted,



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